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Triad Reports Phone Contact With Missing McNell Brother

By LESLIE MAITLAND

The board of directors of the Triad Energy Corporation announced yesterday that at least two of its members "had recently been in telephonic contact" with Thomas McNell. Mr. McNell is one of two missing brothers whose charges of fraud led to the resignation of Max C. Hugel as chief of clandestine operations for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Thomas McNell and his brother, Samuel, are being sought by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on suspicion of having taken more than \$3 million in company assets with them when they disappeared. In addition to the Triad funds believed stolen, money is also said to be missing from another concern, the Everest Petroleum Company. Samuel McNell was the president of Triad and Thomas was reportedly the head of Everest.

Last week, the board announced that the two brothers had been missing since their charges against Mr. Hugel became public on July 14. Mr. Hugel, who has denied wrongdoing, was accused by the McNells of participating with them in

improper securities transactions in the early 1970's.

Triad is a gas and oil exploration company with headquarters at 111 Broadway that was formed by Samuel McNell. Triad shares are traded over the counter. Everest is a private syndication.

The Triad board issued yesterday's statement through the New York law firm of Ruffa & Hanover, which declined to elaborate on any point. The statement said that the board had terminated Samuel McNell as president of Triad on July 23 and had retained legal counsel to investigate a possible civil action against the two brothers.

The board noted that, in regard to the theft of the company's funds, the F.B.I. and the Manhattan District Attorney's office "are investigating the matter."

"The board of directors has determined that all of the assets of the company cannot be found, except for \$6,000 in cash and its inventory of oil and gas leases consisting of leases in Ohio purchased for \$98,000 and other leases purchased for \$69,000."

Lawyers at the firm did not return repeated phone calls.

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